

Exemption Registry
71-5885

24 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

Pursuant to our conversation on the telephone Saturday, I believe I have "pacified" Senator Stennis on his concern that the military would take over the Agency under the new intelligence management arrangements. I had a long private conversation with the Senator on Monday, then appeared before the Armed Services Committee for three hours yesterday. Senator Stennis' primary concern derived from his fear that there would be an increase in military influence over the CIA, because of the injunction that the Deputy Director (a Marine General) assume a greater role in the running of the Agency. As Senator Stennis put it to me on one occasion, "I don't want the military running the CIA any more than I would want Helms commanding an army in the field."

Senator Symington and Senator McIntyre have expressed the same concern. Senator Symington went ahead with his effort to put a ceiling on intelligence spending despite my careful explanation to him in the Armed Services Committee hearing of what the management changes were designed to accomplish in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the foreign intelligence effort. It is abundantly clear that Senator Stennis and Senator Symington are at daggers drawn over senatorial supervision of the Agency and the intelligence community.

Underlying Senator Stennis' intention to examine carefully the new arrangements is his irritation at not having been consulted about these steps in advance. He did not regard prior notification as in any sense adequate. We have already gone to work on this matter, and I would hope that we will be able to answer satisfactorily his many questions, legal and otherwise.

Richard Helms  
Director

cc: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
The Honorable George F. Schultz  
Admiral George W. Anderson, Jr.

DCI